

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski,
The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker,
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn,
The Honorable Michael J. Copps, and
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Broadband Industry Practices, WC docket # 07-52

Minority business owners have worked hard to establish themselves and certainly appreciate the need to ensure a level, fair playing field. So, one might expect us to embrace your "net neutrality" proposal wholeheartedly. Unfortunately, we do not. The reason is "net neutrality" doesn't level the playing field. It threatens the very investment and innovation that have made our communications so robust.

The concern that our members have with the position Chairman Genachowski has laid out in his vision is that we may be rushing to regulate where there is no clear need for regulation.

Wireless communication has flourished in a lightly regulated in environment. We the consumers have seen prices drop, product and service offerings multiply exponentially, and innovation flourish. In short the industry seems to be working to the benefit of consumers. Therefore, we encourage the FCC to make broadband deployment a top policy initiative. Investment in high speed Internet is critical to the success of many of our constituents. Access to the high-speed communication is an absolute must if we are to compete in the global economy. We urge that you focus on policies that will stimulate future investment rather than on those that will add burdensome regulations.

The existing FCC protections as they relate to net neutrality appear to be more than sufficient to protect consumer and business users of the Internet. Should the FCC still proceed with a formal net neutrality rule making, it only seems fair to ensure that if you regulate one, you regulate all. That is, net neutrality should apply to not only the carriers and how they manage their networks but also the "gatekeepers" such as search engines and Internet portals that tailor, drive and provide the content itself.

To rush to regulate an industry that is perhaps one of the few to flourish during these difficult economic times is akin to shooting ourselves in the foot. It's not smart consumer, business, or economic policy.

Sincerely,


Mayor Robert Taylor
President

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